

## Patent Claims

1. An apparatus for the biometric identification of a person, who has an authentication area (AF) containing biometric features, comprising:
- a sensor (1) having an identification area (2) for detecting the biometric features of the part of the person's authentication area (AF) which is situated on the identification area (2),
  - a comparison device (5) for comparing the detected biometric features with the biometric features, stored in a memory (4), of a part of the authentication area (AF) of an authorized person or of a plurality of authorized persons in order to determine the relative position of the biometric features, detected by the sensor (1), of the first detected region (A) within the part of the authentication area (AF), and
  - a computation device (5) for calculating an identification code (PIN), which identifies the person detected by the sensor (1), from the detected biometric features which are not stored in the memory (4) on the basis of the relative position of the biometric features which are stored in the memory (4) within the stored authentication area (AF).
2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the sensor (1) detects a fingerprint, the authentication area comprising those parts of the possible fingerprint area of a finger which are not used to calculate the identification code (PIN).
3. A method for the biometric identification of a person, who has an authentication area (AF) containing biometric features, comprising the following steps:

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- biometric features of a part of the authentication area (AF) of an authorized person or of a plurality of authorized persons are stored,
  - biometric features of the part of the person's authentication area (AF) which is situated on the identification area (2) are detected,
  - the detected biometric features are compared with the stored biometric features of the authentication area (AF) in order to determine the relative position of the detected biometric features within the stored part of the authentication area (AF),
  - an identification code (PIN) which identifies the person detected by the sensor (1) is calculated from the detected biometric features which are not stored in the memory (4) on the basis of the relative position of the biometric features which are stored in the memory 4 within the stored authentication area (AF).
4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that biometric features of a person's fingerprint are detected, and the authentication area (AF) comprises those parts of the possible fingerprint areas of a finger of the person which are not used to calculate the identification code (PIN).
5. The method as claimed in claim 3 or 4, characterized in that a first region (A) containing biometric features which are stored in the memory (4) completely surrounds a second region (B) containing biometric features which are not stored in the memory (4).
6. The method as claimed in one of claims 3 to 5,

characterized  
in that an identification code (PIN) is calculated only  
if the detected first region (A) forms a closed ring,  
surrounding the second region (B), containing biometric  
5 features.

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